

SEAFORTH PAC GENERAL MEETING

February 15, 2012

Executive in Attendance: MaryAnn Giardini, Shannon Derksen, Hark Sandhu, Lynne Vidler, Rema Sanghera, Rhylin Bailie, Jen Mezei, Sandra Mankoo, Sophie Cong, Cheryl Tong, Zena Kwan, Siva Ramesh

Regrets: Wendell Hiltz (principal)

Meeting started 6:06 pm

PAC BUSINESS - Rhylin Bailie

- Approval of January's minutes – Jen firsts, Sandra seconds
- Front row sound systems are installed. Almost all classrooms have one, everyone that wants one has one. The music room might get a new one.
- The \$1500 budgeted for sports and fine arts has not been spent: no requests received.
- Technology update
 - Wireless hubs – wireless has been disabled from the lap top carts. 12 wireless hubs planned at Seaforth – will strategically place them: intermediate classes use carts mostly – 6 to be placed near intermediate classrooms. Some connectivity problems still in some classrooms. The additional 6 will be installed in the summer. Some district schools don't have any hubs yet, that's why our last 6 aren't going in yet.
 - Seaforth IT Inventory (completed by District) is now ready – Wendell to meet with District and then meet with PAC Technical committee to determine how best to spend the money earmarked for IT spending. Meeting will probably occur in March as all the FSAs should be done by then. Note: Wendell provided a hard copy of the inventory to Rhylin.
- Donations: there has been a suggestion that we change the donation system to one that is goal-specific (versus collecting donations and dividing the total evenly on a per student basis). The goal would be to purchase something that benefits the entire school. Such a change must be approved at the 2012 AGM. The reasoning behind this change is that some feel it is the same people donating year after year and that parents that donate also pay for individual events their child participates. Yet if you decide not to send money for these individual events, the District picks up

the tab. Thus some parents end up donating AND paying for individual events, while other parents give relatively less.

- **ACTION ITEM: Wendell to ask Jenny about where to spend funds, ideas from teachers.**
 - Ideas: projectors for each classroom, Hightech Hightouch –science program – \$70/child – in class field trip – PAC could pay. Wish list request should contain suggestions. Hot lunch profits could go towards events during class time.
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- K registration now requires you to bring your child and to get them assessed for English.
- Grade 7 grad: There were concerns re: how to handle year end surplus? We need a set protocol for how to handle this. Grade 7 grad is not a PAC committee. If grade 7's raise x amount, extra has been traditionally donated to the school by small committee. This year, incoming grade 7's were expecting the surplus. Only \$400 was rolled over. Ideally we should avoid surpluses: have planned fundraising to reach target then stop fundraising. Unexpected expenses do occur – i.e. adding extra pages to yearbook. There is a binder to be passed on from year to year, always need to create a budget. After May 31st, any grade 7 grad bills submitted will be paid by PAC. Then school will transfer the money back to PAC. We need volunteers to submit expenses on time.
- Emergency Preparedness: **ACTION ITEM: Rhylin to ask people from last year's committee on emergency preparedness if they could help inventory items during drill in spring 2012.**
- Need co-ordinator for sports day concession – Hark and Jen and Rishma to work with Shannon Gillin. Idea: Mac's fruit – fruit bars – sell or give – nutritionally compliant. No freezer at school anymore.
- Feeding volunteers – yes we do – comes out of sport's day budget – Rishma will look after. Pizza, chips and drink – ordered for each volunteer – **ACTION ITEM Janet/Jen to forward volunteer list to Rishma.**
- Spirit Day Update – hard to get volunteers. The main challenge is to get speakers. We have 4 right now. Draft another email and send out. Deadline is not far away. Have contacted previous speakers, waiting to hear back. 2 from teachers. Half day is an option though. Better than cancelling.
- Hot lunch forms (Rishma) – current schedule of hot lunches ends Mar. 8th then spring break – probably will get new ones out soon. Rishma does have an Excel spreadsheet of all the kids that order. We want to see if the

same people are ordering both types of lunch. **ACTION ITEM: Rishma to send the spreadsheets to Rhylin. One with names of kids.**

- Traffic Safety – seeing some improvement. Police came to help enforce. Siva feels that the drop off zone is easier – newsletter thanks to both Donna and Anne.
- Support for students struggling academically – Deb Seamac – Pauline Newmans – district VP of student support services being contacted. How to support these kids. Trying to bring in speaker. Wendell suggested Aida, our resource teacher, could help with a talk. But perhaps speakers from outside of Seaforth are a better next step. Focus should be what parents can do, versus what district does. Feb 23rd is proposed date for the presentation.

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH (CPF) REPORT – Siva Ramesh

- Will we ask parents for contribution for Carnivale week? Last year kids were asked to contribute \$2/kid. Teachers have not said anything to Wendell about that. Does Wendell know if anyone is coming to speak during the week? **ACTION ITEM: Wendell can ask if any events planned.** One can propose the idea of funding carnival events via PAC for 2012/2013 at the AGM.

DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC) REPORT – MaryAnn Giardini & Jen Mezei

- Our District has the third highest number of ELL (English language learners): Richmond is first, Vancouver is second, and Burnaby is third. DPAC recently did a presentation on ELL learning. Secondary vs. elementary – elementary 23% ELL – 18% at high schools approximately. Students are allowed to be part of the funded ELL category for 5 years in a row. Then they have to get support in an un-funded way from resource teacher. Note that 50% of ELL students are born in Canada. The next DPAC meeting will address the budget. If parents feel that there is anything that should NOT be cut then speak up, send feed back to chair@seaforthpac.net DPAC will do a survey on cuts they will be proposing – short turn around – within 2 weeks of the presentation you have to respond. **ACTION ITEM: When they survey comes out Jen/MaryAnn to email out to Rhylin for wider distribution.** 575 responses last year – good response.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Wendell Hiltz (delivered by Rhylin Bailie)

- Survey results re: How kids feel at schools – the Ministry surveyed kids; results are available on Ministry website. Note “msk” stands for “masked” which means there weren't enough people that answered the question. E.g. teachers haven't been answering this survey for last few years as per BCTF direction,

thus the teacher section is “msk”. Note: a hard copy of the survey was passed to Rhylin.

- Fraser Institute ranking on FSA results 2010/2011 – how did school do? Handout given. Trends: Seaforth is doing better in all three categories than the district average. Grade 4 not meeting is bigger, grade 7 not meeting is lower – could be because grade 4 French have to write in English now. **ACTION ITEM: Wendell to do historical comparison. For students that did not write the performance level unknown. If students are excused from writing – they get a zero? ACTION ITEM: Wendell to double check.** The school may have to excuse them and not parent in order for the score to NOT be zero. On the handout: Year 2 FSA administration was in May, Year 3 FSA administration was in February – in year 3 they can be tested on material they haven’t yet covered fully – could explain why kids didn’t do as well. Variability in the test method will result in variability in results. Grade 4 students have shown improvements. School planning committee will look at.
- Satisfaction survey – students take this – results for survey given to PAC chair – if anyone has questions can contact Rhylin. Students, parents and staff do this survey in March/April – grade 4 and 7. **ACTION ITEM: Put link in minutes before sending out to all parents.**

SAFE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT – MaryAnn Giardini

- Kids are enjoying activities
- Encourage people to walk around school and look at different displays
- 1 more tie dye session left for younger children
- Wrap up assembly Feb. 29. Parents are welcome to attend the assembly.
- Contest submissions due by noon Friday – 1pm judging – all submissions displayed around school – Mrs. Jones will display – announcement of winner on Feb. 29. Contest submissions to be put on a DVD that kids can take home.
- Secret buddy – teachers at Seaforth did this.
- Street heart classic – kindness hearts – nice things said about kids in tournament.
- Chain of kindness is growing.
- Carnival – duke and duchess of kindness in each classroom
- Everyday at 1pm they are sharing acts of kindness – inspiring song
- Classroom buddies are appreciating each other
- Classroom activities – what is friendship – how to negotiate a friendship – how to resolve conflict – making new friends – acknowledgement and praise.
- Want this to be a bigger, regular thing in future years.

CARNIVAL COMMITTEE UPDATE – Zena Kwan

- 1st meeting done. Inflatable games booked. March newsletter will have some information re: baskets. Zena will approach Jenny regarding

teachers picking the theme of their baskets. Carnival committee will take care of all handouts.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Sophie Cong & Rema Sanghera

- Final donation \$7051 dollars – 37% of the students contributed
- \$5404.75 pay pal account balance – 747 orders – Need to subtract \$200-300 fee for Paypal and the \$5.50 meal cost + 12% tax – profit will be about \$500
- No invoice yet from Munchalunch yet, the invoice will arrive when they deliver the food
- Less than \$1 dollar profit per lunch, most of them ordered all lunches, a few that just ordered 1.
- 108 orders so far; about 20 single orders.
- Have new people been ordering Munchalunch or people that also order regular hot lunch are also ordering Munchalunch?
- Recall that this was not meant to be a fundraiser. If this program is going to take away from any of our other activities then we will reconsider the cost structure.
- We need to consider input from the teachers at the end of this year, as they had concerns about the number of hot lunches.
- We will survey parents in May about hot lunch. Try to survey only those that bought the hot lunches. Make sure to ask which hot lunches they ordered: regular, Munchalunch, Quebec, grade 7.
- If Laura writes cheque to Munchalunch tomorrow, school doesn't have to pay HST. If PAC pays then we do have to pay HST. School has to pay GST, not PST..
- Other option is to invoice at the end of the month.
- Trying to get Laura to write the cheques, try and get invoiced monthly, this will result in about 3 cheques for her to write. **ACTION ITEM: Wendell to speak with Laura**
- At the end of Jan. 31st we have approximately \$50,000 in our bank account.

NEW BUSINESS

- Hot lunch committee: someone cancelled the hot dog bun order unbeknownst to Rishma. The person that cancelled the order called themselves Rishma. She had to scramble to get the buns. She has put practices in place to prevent this in the future: the vendors have been instructed to call Rishma if anyone phones to cancel the order to confirm with her that the order really is cancelled. If this happens again, please report to PAC Chair.

Meeting adjourned 8:38 pm